

Rephrasing Questions and Suggestions

In your work with parents and families, as well as with other early childhood professionals, keep in mind that open-ended questions tend to work best in eliciting information, as well as encouraging thought and creativity. With that in mind:

Instead of ...

What's wrong with him/her?

Why are you so upset?

Why did you do that?

May I give you some advice?

Don't you think it would be better if you...?

Is your plan working?

Let me tell you what you should change.

This is how I can help you.

You might try ...

What have you noticed about his/her behavior?

What would you rather have happened?

What prompted you to make that choice?

How would you feel about exploring other solutions?

What do you think would happen if you...?

How is your plan working?

What changes, if any, have you thought about making?

What can I do to help you?